

Media Decorum

- 1. All correspondents must be engaged in the gathering and reporting of news, as well as adhere to journalistic standards of integrity and conduct at all times.
- 2. Sergeant-at-Arms and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms shall ensure that members of the media trying to access the Senate floor are wearing proper identification. **Credentials must be worn and be visible at all times** to gain entrance to the Senate floor.
- 3. Members of the media are encouraged to dress professionally.
- 4. Credentialed members of the media are allowed access to the Senate floor upon the 10-minute bell for the convening of the legislative day.
- 5. While Senate floor proceedings are taking place, interviews may not be conducted on the Senate floor or the Senate gallery.
- 6. Interviews may be conducted in the Senate Majority Caucus Room, Minority Caucus Room, Senator's offices, conference rooms, hallways by the Senate floor or one of the Senate lobbies.
- 7. Reporters must submit a special request to the President of the Senate for the use of the floor for the interview. All floor access requests require an approval from the Office of the Senate President.
- 8. Members of the media must check-in with security upon arrival. A Senate staff member will then escort media to designated press areas.
- 9. Members of the media may use cell phones and other mobile devices to take photos in the Senate Chamber and Senate gallery.
- 10. Video and still photographers may have access to the Senate floor and Senate gallery while the Senate floor proceedings are taking place but must remain within the designated press areas.
- 11. Tripods are allowed on the Senate floor and Senate gallery in the designated press areas while Senate floor proceedings are taking place.

- 12. The table by the dais is reserved for credentialed print members of the media.
- 13. If the number of video and still photographers is excessive or creates a disturbance or disruption, the presiding officer may need to reduce the number of media personnel on the floor.
- 14. Members of the media may not block the doors by the dais on the Senate floor.
- 15. While Senate floor proceedings are taking place, members of the media who are in the designated press areas on the floor shall refrain from having conversations.
- 16. Media credentials do not afford members of the media access to the Senate floor during the interim or when the Senate is otherwise not in session.
- 17. Media credentials are not required to cover public committee and subcommittee hearings.
- 18. Interviews may not be conducted inside committee rooms while committee hearings are taking place.
- 19. Media credentials do not exempt members of the media from Senate security checkpoints and are only valid for access to the Senate Chamber. Media credentials do not grant access to the Senate before the building opens or after the building closes, or the use of the hallways and back stairs at any time without an accompanying member of the Senate or staff.
- 20. These procedures may be enforced by Senate staff at any time.